

Indian Reservation. The proposed action describes the forest in terms of seral stages and structure. It measures existing conditions against the natural or pre-European contact condition and proposes a Desired Condition that more closely resembles the pre-European contact condition. It also prescribes management activities to manipulate vegetation toward the Desired Condition, and identifies management standards and constraints for cultural protection, for other natural resources, and for social and economic concerns.

The EIS will evaluate alternatives that address the purpose and need for action. These may include: (1) No action, which would continue current operating policies, including those in the 1982–1992 Flathead Forest Management Plan; (2) management activities and strategies to develop, restore or promote sustainable ecosystems while treating forest outputs as by-products of a healthy forest; and (3) other reasonable alternatives identified via public input.

Dated: December 19, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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Bureau of Land Management

[NV–060–7122–00–8661; N64–93–001P]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Plan of Operation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Plan of Operation for mining in Lander County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended, and to 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain District has made available the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the proposed development of an open pit mine and associated facilities, in Lander County, Nevada.

DATES: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish its Federal Register Notice of Availability on February 2, 1996. That publication begins the official 30 day period required by the Council on Environmental Quality for Final EISs.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District Manager, 50 Bastian Rd., P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 ATTN: Dave Davis. Copies of the Final EIS may be made in writing to the preceding address or by calling Dave Davis at (702) 635–4000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Davis, Pipeline Project Manager, at (702) 635–4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cortez Gold Mines filed a Plan of Operations in October, 1992 for the development of the Pipeline Gold deposit open pit mine. The Pipeline proposal calls for the development of an 1827 acre open pit gold mine operation located in the southern end of Crescent Valley, Lander County, Nevada. In addition to the 235 acre open pit, there will be a dewatering program required to keep the pit dry during mining operations. This dewatering program will pump an estimated 30,000 gallons per minute (gpm). Approximately 28,000 gpm of the total 30,000 gpm will be returned to the Crescent Valley aquifer through a series of infiltration ponds. Associated facilities include a new 5,000 ton per day mill, constructing a new combined heap leach/tailings facility, waste dumps and associated support facilities, offices, etc.

The Draft and Final EISs evaluate the impacts of the Pipeline proposal on a number of resources. The focus of both documents include the impacts to ground and surface water resources, pit lake chemistry, social and economic impacts to the region, air quality, cultural resources and Native American religious concerns.

The Final EIS incorporates changes to the findings in the Draft EIS that resulted from the public comment process on the Draft EIS. These changes include an expanded regional ground water modelling study. The regional study supports and expands upon the subregional ground water modelling effort prepared for the Draft EIS. Water quality modelling was expanded for the Final EIS. These expanded water quality modelling results indicate some metal species and other constituents may exceed current Nevada Drinking water standards in the long term (250 years after cessation of mining operations). Precise estimates for such long term predictions are impossible to predict with current technology. In order to better understand the potential future impacts, the BLM also had an ecological risk assessment for the pit lake prepared. This risk assessment identifies some potential to affect avian wildlife in the long term. Mitigation is

proposed for those potential avian impacts. Cortez has committed to an irrevocable, long term monetary contingency fund. This funding will be used by the BLM for monitoring all aspects of the project after cessation of mining operations; although the primary focus of the funding will be used to monitor the pit lake water quality. The contingency fund will also be used to mitigate any future long term impacts resulting from pit lake water quality.

Dated: January 22, 1996.

Gerald M. Smith,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96–1627 Filed 1–29–96; 8:45 am]

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[NV–050–1020–001]

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Amendment of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Amendment to meeting location and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), council meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a discussion of laws and regulations that pertain to grazing, and a statewide update of standards and guidelines.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Michael Dwyer at the Las Vegas District Office, 4765 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108, telephone, (702) 647–5000.

DATES, TIMES: Dates are February 14 and 15, 1996. The council will meet at the BLM Las Vegas District Office located at 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 7:30 a.m. on February 14, 1996, and will depart for a field trip at 8 a.m.